

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A bonus determining method for determining a bonus information item for a first user of a recording device, the following acts being processed:

recording a coded playback information item, and recording a link information item which identifies an authorizing device authorized to grant a playback authorization for the coded playback information item, and recording at least one recorder identification information item on a recording carrier with the aid of the recording device, the recorder identification information item identifying the recording device that performs the recording;

obtaining a playback authorization for the coded playback information item, played back with the aid of one or more playback devices associated with corresponding one or more second users from the recording carrier or from a copy of the recording carrier, from the authorizing device identified by the link information item, in order to permit a pay per view billing of a playback charge;

transferring the at least one recorder identification information item, played back from the recording carrier or from the copy of the recording carrier, from the one or more playback devices to the authorizing device identified by the link information item; and

determining the bonus information item for the first user of the recording device from the number of recorder identification information items transferred during a billing period to the authorizing device by the one or more second users of the one or more playback devices and identifying the recording device.

2. (Previously presented)      The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which a recorder identification information item transferred to the authorizing device from the one or more playback device devices when the playback authorization is obtained is only rated for determining the bonus information item for the first user of the recording device when the authorizing device has actually also granted the playback authorization to the one or more playback devices.

3. (Previously presented)      The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which the link information item represents an Internet address of the authorizing device, and in which both the obtaining of the playback authorization from the authorizing device and the transferring of the recorder identification information item to the authorizing device are performed via data lines of the Internet.

4. (Previously presented)      The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which the authorizing device stores user data for billing the playback charge to the one or more second users together with at least one recorder identification information item which identifies a recording device and/or playback device.

5. (Currently amended)      A playback device for obtaining a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item recorded on a recording carrier having playback means for playing back the coded playback information item and for playing back a link information item which identifies an authorizing device authorized to grant the playback authorization for the coded

playback information item, and for playing back at least one recorder identification information item from the recording carrier, the recorder identification information item identifying a recording device of a first user ~~with the aid of which that~~ recorded the coded playback information item ~~was recorded on~~ the recording carrier, and having communication means for establishing a communication link, identified by the link information item, played back from the recording carrier, with the authorizing device, in order to obtain the playback authorization for the playback information item played back from the recording carrier, the communication means being designed for transferring the at least one recorder identification information item, played back from the recording carrier, by the playback device and transferred to the authorizing device, and for providing a bonus information item for the first user from the number of recorder identification information items transferred during a billing period to the authorizing device by a second user that uses the playback device to play back the coded playback information item.

6. (Previously presented) The playback device as claimed in claim 5, in which the communication means transfer the at least one

played back recorder identification information item to the authorizing device only when the authorizing device has actually also granted the playback authorization.

7. (Previously presented) The playback device as claimed in claim 5, in which the communication means are designed for establishing, by means of the link information item representing an Internet address, the communication link with the authorizing device via the Internet, and in which both the obtaining of the playback authorization from the authorizing device, and the transferring of the recorder identification information item to the authorizing device are performed via data lines of the Internet.

8. (Previously presented) The playback device as claimed in claim 5, in which the playback means are designed for playing back all those recorder identification information items recorded on the recording carrier, which identify all those recording devices which have contributed to creating the copy of the recording carrier played back by the playback device, and in which the communication means are designed for transferring all the recorder

identification information items, played back from the recording carrier, to the authorizing device.

9. (Previously presented) The playback device as claimed in claim 5, in which recording means are provided which are designed for recording on the recording carrier the coded playback information item, the link information item and the recorder identification information item identifying the playback device.

10. (Currently amended) An authorizing device for granting a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item with the aid of one or more playback devices, and for determining a bonus information item for a first user of a recording device, having communication means for receiving a playback authorization inquiry information item, which identifies the one or more playback devices and a coded playback information item provided by the one or more playback devices for playing back from a recording carrier, and which includes a recorder identification information item, the recorder identification information item identifying the recording device ~~with the aid of which that recorded~~ the coded playback information item provided

for playing back ~~was recorded~~ on the recording carrier, and having authorizing means for checking whether a successful pay per view billing of a playback charge is warranted for one or more second users of the one or more playback ~~device~~ devices and, in the event of a positive checking result, for billing the playback charge to the one or more second users for playing back the coded playback information item, and for outputting a grant of playback authorization information item to the playback device, and having bonus information determining means for determining the bonus information item for the first user of the recording device from the number of recorder identification information items transferred during a billing period to the authorizing device by the one or more second users of the one or more playback devices and identifying the recording device.

11. (Previously presented) The authorizing device as claimed in claim 10, in which a recorder identification information item included in the playback authorization inquiry information item is only rated for determining the bonus information item for the first user of the recording device when the authorizing device has

actually also granted the playback authorization for the one or more playback devices.

12. (Previously presented) The authorizing device as claimed in claim 10, in which an account memory is designed for jointly storing user data and at least one recorder identification information item which identifies user data for billing the playback charge to the one or more second users, and which at least one recorder identification information item identifies at least one recording device and/or the one or more playback devices.

13. (Previously presented) The authorizing device as claimed in claim 10, in which the authorizing device is formed by a computer server connected to the Internet.